
George Brown College Retirees' Association Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023

Call to order: Dianne Diniz called the meeting to order

Present: Dianne Diniz, Georgia Quartaro, Bob Cox, Barb Dunlop, Julie Bulmash, Debbie Plested, Crystal Kotow-Sullivan, Joan Reynolds

Regrets: Trish Robinson, Denise Pontone

Motion to approve the agenda as circulated

Moved by B. Cox

Seconded by D. Plested

Carried

Under Events, change was registered online – delete rest of this sentence

Approval of the August 15 minutes as amended below

Under New Business – The Lunch Club will start in October, not September

Moved by D. Plested

Seconded by G. Quartaro

Carried

Business arising from the July 14 meeting

3rd Age Network – B. Cox has requested information from this organization but has not heard back as yet. This organization plans events for seniors. B. Cox hopes that this organization may help us with event venues and speakers and also assist us in moving our events during COVID from online to upcoming in-person events. This organization holds events at a church and the church provides staff and equipment for online events. It was decided that we need more information and/ or perhaps an invite to a 3rd Age Network representative to a GBCRA Board meeting to determine the nature of a possible relationship with this organization.

Scholarships – a meeting with the Foundation has not yet been scheduled.

Auction and Event – Date is Nov. 16 from 1-4 pm. at the Heliconian Club

The Heliconian Club is a non-profit arts and letters association for women and offers space and activities for its members and the public. Its location at 35 Hazelton Ave is in the Yorkville area and close to public transit. Its website is heliconianclub.org

GBCRA has rented space for the fundraising event from 12 noon until 3:30 pm. The rental fee is \$396 for four hours and the pianist's fee is \$400 for a 30 to 45 minute concert. . Fifty percent of the rental cost is to be paid in advance of the event.

The theme is an art sale, an auction, refreshments and a piano concert. The event will be promoted to members as the 'GBCRA Arts and Auction on the Avenue'. Promotion of the event will mention that proceeds of the auction will go towards GBC student scholarships and that GBCRA will subsidize the cost of the event.

There are walls to hang paintings etc. on and B. Cox will check this out and how to arrange space and the required equipment. C. Kotow-Sullivan will contact artists who may be willing to donate and D. Plested will contact a possible donation from a photographer.

C. Kotow-Sullivan will contact the Canadian Club Ambassador for auction items and a Whisky Tasting and History Club event. Other potential auction items include a Mixology class, an author's signed copies of her books, three cooking classes via Zoom by C. kowtow-Sullivan, a drawing class by Dianne Acey, a cooking class by chef John Higgins, golf fees (J. Reynolds will contact Christine Walker.) Once any donation is confirmed, notification is to be sent to B. Cox.

GBCRA needs ideas on how to market this event and to have members and friends donate auction items. It was agreed that members of the GBC Foundation as well as GBC President Fearon will be invited.

The Chef Catering company will be hired to provide a catered charcuterie board. B. Cox will contact the caterer about consideration of food allergies and whether food item ingredients are labeled to identify gluten free, lactose free and vegetarian items. This caterer donates 10% to the Red Door. They do not service alcohol and GBCRA decided that alcohol was not necessary for an afternoon event. GBCRA will charge \$25 per person to attend this event based on 60 people attending. The caterer will donate a box of steaks for the auction.

Richmond Station was asked if they were interested in doing the catering but they responded that they were too busy.

Reports

Co-Chairs - items for this report are throughout the Minutes

Membership – D. Plested

No changes since last month but we would like to get more members.

D. Plested and G. Quartaro will look at the Strategic Direction report to analyze the appropriateness of some ideas at this point in time.

Treasurer's Report- J. Reynolds

Bank account is flush with \$18,332.00

Question – why do we not record the Minutes as apparently Zoom will record the Minutes. If we decided to do this, would we post it or keep it in a file? The GBCRA AGM is recorded but no other meeting has ever been recorded. B. Cox and D. Diniz will look into recording on Zoom. J. Bulmash and C. Kotow-Sullivan will look into getting Google Docs.

Communications – B.Cox

A newsletter has recently been distributed and the open rate has dropped but the rate often decreases during the summer months. C. Kotow-Sullivan is recording tomorrow and will send the recording to B. Cox.

The video interview conducted by C. Kotow-Sullivan with D. Pontone was well done. D. Pontone has been at the College since she was 18.

Events

October - Food Bank - J. Bulmash- 11 have signed up for this event. J. Bulmash will provide rides for members and will invite the GBC President Fearon.

Nov. online Music Halls of WWI

Auction and Art sale Nov. 16

Dec 1 GBCRA AGM- online

Clubs

Book Club – last Friday of the month. Book was changed for the month of Sept.

Bridge Club – all is well. Participation was strong during the summer.

Theatre Club- the next play is Rent at Stratford and 11 people have registered.

Monthly Lunch Club – 7-8 people have registered for this month on Oct. 20. Sign up is on the GBCRA website

New Business

GBCRA AGM – Dec. 1 on-line at 11:30 am followed by a Circle of Enrichment presentation.

Online GBCRA AGMs have a higher attendance than when in person.

Next Meeting – Tuesday Oct. 17 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Adjournment - Motion made by C. Kotow-Sullivan, Seconded by B. Cox. Carried